Amended Claims

1. A composition for preventing or reducing the incidence of adhesions in or associated with a body cavity comprising an aqueous formulation containing the polysaccharide dextrin in an amount effective to prevent or reduce such adhesions, wherein the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerisation (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other.

2. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the aqueous formulation is a solution.

3. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the aqueous formulation is a gel.

4. A composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the percentage of α-1,6 linkages in the dextrin is less than 10%.

5. A composition according to Claim 4 wherein the percentage of α-1,6 linkages in the dextrin is less than 5%.

6. A composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the number average molecular weight (Mn) of the dextrin is in the range 1,000 to 30,000.

7. A composition according to Claim 6 wherein the Mn of the dextrin is in the range 3,000 to 8,000.

8. A composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the weight average molecular weight (Mw) the of dextrin is in the range 3,000 to 50,000.

ART 34 AMDT

9. A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the Mw of the dextrin is from 5,000 to 50,000.

10. A composition according to ~~any of Claims 1-9~~ claim 1 wherein the dextrin contains more than 50% of polymers with a degree of polymerisation (DP) greater than 12.

11. A composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the dextrin is unsubstituted dextrin.

12. A composition according to ~~any of Claims 1-10~~ claim 1 wherein the dextrin is substituted by one or more different groups selected from the group consisting of negatively charged groups, sulfate groups, neutral groups, positively charged groups and quaternary ammonium groups.

13. A composition according to Claim 12 wherein the dextrin is sulfated dextrin containing at least one sulfate group per saccharide (glucose) unit.

14. A composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 in which the dextrin is present in an amount of from 2.5-18 % by weight of the composition.

15. A composition according to Claim 14 in which the dextrin is present in an amount of from 3-5 % by weight of the composition.

16. A composition according to ~~either of Claims 14 or 15~~ claim 14 in which the dextrin is present in an amount of about 4 % by weight of the composition.

17. A composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 which further includes a calcium binding agent.

ART 34 AMDT

18. A composition according to Claim 17 wherein the calcium binding agent is either EDTA or sodium citrate.

19. A composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 which further includes a suitable lubricant.

20. A composition according to Claim 19 wherein the lubricant is a phospholipid.

21. A composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 which further includes a hyaluronate.

22. A composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 which further includes a compound selected from one or more of the following compounds, glycosolaminoglycan, an antibiotic agent, prostacyclin or an analogue thereof, a fibrinolytic agent or an analogue thereof, an anti-inflammatory agent or an analogue thereof, dextrin sulphate and/or methylene blue.

23. A method of preventing or reducing the incidence of adhesions in or associated with a body cavity, which comprises introducing into the body cavity an aqueous formulation containing the polysaccharide dextrin in an amount effective to prevent or reduce the incidence of such adhesions, wherein the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerisation (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other.

24. A method according to Claim 23 wherein the aqueous formulation is a solution.

25. A method according to Claim 23 wherein the aqueous formulation is a gel.

ART 34 AMDT

claim 23

26. A method according to ~~any of Claims 23-25~~ wherein said composition is applied to the appropriate body cavity after a surgical operation has been carried out.

claim 23

27. A method according to ~~any of Claims 23-26~~ wherein the composition is allowed to remain in the body cavity for a minimum of 2 to 3 days.

claim 23

28. A method according to ~~any of Claims 23-27~~ wherein the composition is allowed to remain in the body cavity over the period during which fibrin exudation is at a maximum.

claim 23

29. A method according to ~~any of Claims 23-28~~ wherein the composition remains in the body cavity for a period of up to 7 to 8 days in order to allow restoration of non-stick surfaces (mesothelium regeneration).

claim 23

30. A method according to ~~any of Claims 23-29~~ wherein the composition is applied to the peritoneal cavity in a volume in the range 500-2000 ml.

31. A method according to Claim 30 wherein the composition is applied to the peritoneal cavity in a volume in the range 1000 ml-1500 ml.

claim 23

32. A method according to ~~any of Claims 23-31~~ wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in differing concentrations over a concentration range of 2.5-18 % by weight of the composition.

33. A method according to Claim 32 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in differing concentrations over a concentration range of 3-5 % by weight of the composition.

ART 34 AMDT

claim 32

34. A method according to ~~either Claims 32 or 33~~ wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in an amount of about 4 % by weight of the composition.

claim 23

35. A method according to ~~any of Claims 23-34~~ wherein the concentration range of the dextrin is selectively altered over a period of time.

36. A biocompatible, bioresorbable, and non-toxic adhesion prevention kit for surgical use in humans or animals, comprising an aqueous formulation of dextrin.

37. A kit according to Claim 36 wherein the aqueous formulation is either a solution or a gel.

38. Use of a composition according to Claim 1 and optionally including any one or more of the features of Claims 2-22 for preventing or reducing the incidence of adhesions in or associated with a body cavity which comprises introducing into the body cavity an aqueous formulation containing the polysaccharide dextrin wherein the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerisation (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other.

39. Products containing an aqueous formulation of the polysaccharide dextrin and any one or more of the features of Claims 17-22 as a combined preparation for use in preventing or reducing the incidence of adhesions in or associated with a body cavity wherein the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerisation (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other.

Sub A1

add B3